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# VOICE OF AMERICA NEEDS IMMEDIATE STRENGTHENING

Mr. YARBOROUGH. Mr. President, only last Monday I urged that we make an immediate reappraisal of our Voice of America and other public information programs directed to Cuba and Latin America.

Since then two highly significant reports concerning America's startling shortcomings in the world information field have come to my attention.

The first is from a Methodist missionary, Rev. H. T. MacIn, who recently returned from the Congo. One of Texas' best known and most able editors, Mr. H. M. Baggaly of the Tulsa Herald, published this account of Rev. MacIn's report:

It is said that we Americans primarily through missionary activity, have done a good job in teaching the Africans to read. But after that job was accomplished, we gave them nothing to read. Instead the Russians are flooding the country with interesting reading material.

The Russians are beaming 480 hours of radio programs each week to the Congo in five different dialects simultaneously—almost around the clock. The people have small battery operated radios which pick up these broadcasts.

Meanwhile, the Voice of America beams two hours of programs a week to the Congo—all in French.

But Mr. President, we have no broadcasts in the native languages, which almost all the people speak.

The missionary said he not only predicts the triumph of communism in the battle for the minds of the Congolese—he will guarantee it.

The Voice of America is doing little more in Cuba and Central America.

Mr. President, many Senators must have read the article written by Murrey Marder and published in the Washington Post of January 12, 1961, concerning the report of President Eisenhower's Committee on Information Activities Abroad. Mr. Marder said:

The report includes some of the most sweeping recommendations—and some of the bluntest admissions of shortcomings—ever made in the information field with Government participation.

Mr. President, there can be no denying that one of the most powerful and deadly weapons in the cold war arsenal is truth. Unfortunately, Communist lies and propaganda in overwhelming mass dissemination quantities can be powerful, too, particularly where truth is not told so often or so emphatically.

For us, a nation actively working for peace and working to avoid a shooting war, and actively engaged in a cold war, it seems to me dangerous and foolhardy that the administration has failed to give us the informational leadership to keep this vital phase of our national strength at least on par with the enemies of the free world.

Mr. President, we Americans are supposed to be the best salesmen in the world. We should not simply fight for parity in distribution of information with the Communist world; we should do our opponents in getting the truth to the peoples of the world, so that they may know the truth, and by comparing it with the falsehoods they get from the other side, learn the values of freedom.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the Record an article entitled "Vast Expansion of USIA Activities Abroad Urged in Report to President," written by Murrey Marder and published in the Washington Post of January 12, 1961.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

**U.S. IN AFRICA AND AMERICAS CITED—VAST EXPANSION OF USIA ACTIVITIES ABROAD URGED IN REPORT TO PRESIDENT**  
(By Murrey Marder)

A bold step forward in the size and concept of the U.S. information program was recommended by a White House study

change and equally great potential danger" loom ahead in this decade, President Eisenhower's Committee on Information Activities Abroad.

Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Mansfield D. Sprague headed the 25-member committee of Government policymakers and outsiders. They spent 18 months studying the operation of all U.S. overseas information work, plus the psychological impact abroad of its diplomatic, economic, military, and scientific programs.

"Concrete, dramatic, and timely" action was urged to overcome admittedly huge gaps in U.S. information activities especially in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The report includes some of the most sweeping recommendations—and some of the bluntest admissions of shortcomings—ever made in the information field with Government participation. They come, ironically, in the dying hours of the Eisenhower administration. Some of them mesh with—and even exceed—proposals being considered by the incoming Kennedy administration.

While the report comes from an outgoing administration, two of the committee members will continue to serve in the new administration: CIA Director Allen W. Dulles and Under Secretary of State Livingston T. Merchant, who is slated for another foreign policy post.

This is likely to give the report more stature than "just another study" by an administration in eclipse and could help stimulate bipartisan action on Capitol Hill. In language partially cushioned in kindness to the current administration, the report nevertheless finds, in effect, that the United States must seize itself by the scruff of the neck and intensify its efforts.

Among its findings:

"The scale of the total U.S. information effort will have to be progressively expanded for some time to come. There is urgent need for substantial increases in the critical areas of Asia and Latin America."

"In Africa . . . we lack basic knowledge of the processes by which information and ideas are communicated . . . we lack sufficient information specialists . . . we lack contacts."

"In Latin America the immediate outlook is more disturbing than promising . . . greater efforts are needed."

"Communist China presents a baffling and threatening problem for official information activity."

"We are now in a period when the mission and style of diplomacy is changing . . . The prospect is for a period of protracted military conflict between the free world and the Communist system" which "will reach into every portion of the globe. The outcome will depend considerably on the degree to which we are able to influence the attitudes of people."

Among corrective proposals:

"A new approach is developing a major program of assistance to educational development abroad. This must include assistance in building and supporting model schools, libraries, and libraries abroad and in establishing research and training centers, as symbols of American help."

The program would consist of large mobile training units to provide basic skills in health, agriculture, and mechanical trades to thousands of trainees at a time. Another suggestion was to provide scholarships for education, to be awarded in open competition to young people in various countries.

Without mentioning President-elect Kennedy's plan for a peace corps of Americans in which he had, the report similarly suggested a program of sending for young Americans to be trained in performing such tasks as teaching and assisting in village development.

Expansion of the U.S. information program

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